

National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis,

DUBLIN BRANCH.

Royal College of Physicians,

Kildare Street,

Wm William Lynne

Dublin. June 11th. 1910.

Dear Professor Osler,

In reply to your note of June 6th regarding the organisation of our Branch of the National Association, I think it may be of some slight service if I give you a sketch of its history and of the work which it has done.

Its foundation was primarily due to the Dublin University Biological Association, a body composed chiefly of medical students at Trinity College, Dublin.

During the Session of 1898-9 the subject of the Prevention of Consumption had been considered at the meetings

of the Association and a Memorial
was transmitted, I think at the
instigation of Dr Percy Kirkpatrick,
to the Royal Academy of Medicine
asking that body to take steps
to bring public opinion to bear upon
the matter.

This resulted in the calling of a
Conference which met at the Royal
College of Physicians under the
Presidency of the Lord Lieutenant
Earl Cadogan, K.G., on July 1st 1899.
The Marlborough House Meeting had
just been held and it was decided
to work in conjunction with the
newly formed National Association.
Branches were subsequently formed
in Belfast, Cork, and Dubrov.
The first Secretaries of the Dublin
Branch was Dr J. Bruce Durham,
while Dr Joseph Carroll and Professor
McBumey acted as Treasurers.

These gentlemen under the Committee carried on the work of the Branch until 1902 when the offices of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer were amalgamated and transferred to me.

Since then the executive work has been in my hands under the direction of the Committee the present constitution of which I give on the enclosed slip.

From the first we had difficulty in overcoming the dead weight of indifference which amounted almost to fatalism. The masses regarded tubercle as "the will of God", the educated considered prevention in the light of modern science, as a medical fad. We were regarded as amiable visionaries and it seemed that we were but voices crying in the wilderness. Still as I look back on these years I am amazed at the amount of work we were able to do on an income of about £30 per annum!

We worried the Railway Companies about the cleansing of carriages and got them to put up notices regarding spitting in the cars and stations. We did the same with the Tramways Company and got both to obtain from the Board of Trade sanction to a by-law making spitting an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding 40s. We got the Board of National Education to send officially our pamphlets to every national school teacher in Ireland. They also sent out our poster to be displayed in every school in their system.

Thirty six Technical Instruction Committees under the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction distributed our literature, while individual officers of the Department e.g. itinerant instructors, aided materially in this work.

We reached also St Patrick's College for the training of the Roman Catholic Clergy at Maynooth, the Dublin Diocesan

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Synod of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Dublin Presbytery, the Dublin Methodist Council, the Post Office, many commercial firms, the Trades Institute, the Workingmen's Clubs, two important Tenement Companies and many other bodies.

In this way the Branch did an immense amount of pioneer work and we had sympathisers in almost every part of Ireland who were ready to lend a hand when the time came for the more active campaign.

In 1907 I brought before my Committee the question of having a small Tuberculosis Exhibit at the Dublin International Exhibition which was then in preparation. The Committee could not see their way to undertake the work and incur

expense which we had no money
to meet, accordingly my modest
scheme fell through.

Altogether independent of this, I ser-
viceously the Countess of Aberdeen,
who had just started the Women's
Health Association, learnt from
Dr Tate Mackenzie of Philadelphia
of the value of Tuberculosis Exhibitions
in the States. She summoned a
small meeting to consider the
possibility of organising such an
enterprise in connection with the
International Exhibition.

Mrs Rushton as organising Secretary
of the Women's Health Association
and myself as Honorary Secretary
of the Dublin Branch of the National
Association became Honorary Secretaries
of the Exhibition Committee.

The subsequent history of the
movement is well known to you.
led by a lady of position and personality

it took on a vigour it never had before and success is attending its efforts to a degree greater than perhaps any of us had expected. How far this result has been due to pioneer work done by the Dublin Branch I cannot say, but I believe that our efforts played a not inconsiderable part in the matter. Practically all our active members have become engaged in one or other of the enterprises of the Women's Health Association and the Dublin Branch has passed into a condition of more or less suspended animation as a working body. It still exists however and its pamphlets are still circulated. There is a small credit balance at Bank.

I have no doubt that in a scheme for general reorganisation of the National Association, my Committee would join actively, and if a definite line

of work were assigned to the branch
I think it could fulfil useful
functions without clashing with the
Women's Health Association whose
energies are scattered over so wide
a field in its efforts towards social
betterment.

Faithfully Yours
Alfred E. Lloyd.

Professor Osler
M.D., D.C.P.
Regius Professor of Medicine
Oxford.

Dublin

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Royal College of Physicians,

Kildare Street,

1910.

President.

The Earl Cadogan. K.G.

Vice - Presidents

The President. Royal College of Physicians.

.. .. Royal College of Surgeons.

.. .. Royal Academy of Medicine.

Committee

Dr Robert Brown. M.D. Rathmines.

Sir Charles A. Cameron C.B., M.D. Dublin City.

Dr James Craig. Fellow Registrar R.C.P.

2. P. Calverwell. F.T.C.D. Professor of Education.

Dr J. Knox. Dunham.

Dr Minnie Falkner. Medical Super^t of Statistics.

J. P. Lawcott - Town Clerk Rathmines.

William Field, M.P.

Dr J. Magee Finny.

R. P. Brien Esq. C.B.,

Dr J. Lumsden.

Professor Z. J. Mcweeney.

Sir John W. Moore.

Sir Christopher J. Nixon. Bart. D.L.

Dr Joseph P. Carroll.

Dr Alfred R. Parsons.

Hon. Sec. - Dr Alfred E. Boyd.